

Message Text

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TAGS: TGEN, ENRG, PFOR, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT: FOURTH SESSION OF JOINT
COMMITTEE (07.00): BRIEF WRAP-UP ON A SUCCESSFUL MEETING

1. SUMMARY. U.S. DELEGATION TO FOURTH SESSION OF JOINT COMMITTEE
ON PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY DEPARTED MOSCOW 14 DECEMBER AFTER
SUCCESSFUL MEETING AND TECHNICAL VISITS. PROGRAMS OF ACTIVITIES,
EARLIER ADVANCED BY THE INDIVIDUAL JOINT COORDINATING COMMITTEES ON
FUNDAMENTAL PROPERTIES OF MATTER, FAST-BREEDER REACTORS, AND CON-
TROLLED THERMONUCLEAR REACTIONS, WERE APPROVED BY THE JOINT
COMMITTEE IN SESSION, AND A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT PROGRAM ISSUES IN
OTHER AREAS WERE RESOLVED DURING AND AFTER THE J.C. SESSION.
END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. DEL OBTAINED PRE-MEETING GOALS: (A.) U.S. - SOVIET
"RECEIVING-SIDE" COSTS WERE BROUGHT CLOSER TO BALANCE IN
FUNDAMENTAL PROPERTIES COOPERATION WHEN SOVIET SIDE AGREED TO
SUPPORT ALL LONG-TERM AMERICAN VISITORS IN THIS PROGRAM. WE SHALL
CONTINUE TO PAY FOR SOVIETS ON CERTAIN PROJECTS ONLY. THE
LARGER TOTAL NUMBER OF SOVIET VISITORS TO THE U.S. HAD
THROWN PROGRAM FINANCES INTO TEMPORARY IMBALANCE.
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(B.) SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO FURNISH SHORTLY THE REMIANING RE-
QUESTED TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON THE BN-350 FAST-BREEDER REACTOR,
AND A U.S.-USSR SPECIAL WORKING GROUP WILL DRAW UP, DURING
THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1977, A PRELIMINARY COSTING ESTIMATE FOR
THE INSTALLATION OF A U.S.-MADE STEAM GENERATOR IN THE BN-350.
THIS IS FIRST REAL SOVIET RESPONSE ON THIS ITEM, BUT TECHNICAL

PROBLEMS MAY BE CONSIDERABLE (VIDE INFRA). (C) IN THE AREA OF LIGHT-WATER REACTOR REGULATION AND SAFETY RESEARCH, U.S. AND SOVIET SIDES AGREED TO MEET AND PURSUE DEVELOPMENT OF A SEPARATE AGREEMENT ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND RESEARCH COOPERATION. THE SIDES INFORMALLY AGREED TO USE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S PREVIOUS PROPOSALS AS THE INITIAL BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS.

3. DURING STAY, SEAMANS PAID COURTESY CALL OF G.A. MARTIROSYAN, FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE A.S.S.R. (SCAE CHAIRMAN PETROSYANTS AVERRED THAT APPOINTMENT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SET WITH ARZUMANYAN, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WHO HAD DIED SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL.) COURTESY CALL WAS CARRIED ON FRONT PAGES OF ARMENIAN PAPERS. FULLER ARTICLES, GIVING DESCRIPTION OF AGREEMENT AND PARTIAL LIST OF DELEGATIONS, APPEARED INSIDE NEWSPAPERS AFTER SIGNING OF JOINT MEMORANDUM. SIGNING CEREMONY WAS FILMED FOR TELEVISION, AND DR. SEAMANS GAVE INTERVIEW ON US-SOVIET COOPERATION ON PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY. IN YEREVAN, DELEGATION ALSO VISITED PHYSICAL-TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND SOON-TO-BE-OPENED OKTEMBRYAN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, WHICH, ACCORDING TO SOVIETS, HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND EARTHQUAKES REGISTERING UP TO 9(NINE) ON THE RICHTER SCALE.

4. AFTER COMPLETING BUSINESS IN YEREVAN, DELEGATION FLEW TO CHEVCHENKO TO VISIT BN-350, SOVIET OPERATIONAL FAST-BREEDER REACTOR IN WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO PLACE FOR EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES STEAM GENERATOR OF U.S. DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE.

AS THIS STEAM GENERATOR WOULD BE OF THE TYPE THAT THE U.S. INTENDS TO USE IN ITS CLINCH RIVER FAST-BREEDER REACTOR FACILITY (CRFBRF), NOW SLATED FOR COMPLETION IN 1983-84, THE EARLY IN-UNCLASSIFIED

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STALLATION OF A GENERATOR IN THE BN-350 WOULD PROVIDE THE U.S. VALUABLE EXPERIENCE ON ITS OWN EQUIPMENT. FOR THE SOVIETS, IT WOULD ALSO BE VALUABLE SINCE THE SODIUM-STEAM JUNCTION AND THE STEAM GENERATOR CONSTITUTE THE MAJOR OPERATIONAL PROBLEM WHICH THE BN-350 HAS ENCOUNTERED. DESPITE THE MUTUAL ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE IDEA, THE DEL'S VISIT TOOK A BIT OF THE BLOOM OFF THE ROSE AS CLOSER ANALYSIS STARTS TO REVEAL THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEMS FACED. IN THE PURELY TECHNICAL AREA, THE DESIGN OPERATING PARAMETERS (TEMPERATURE, PRESSURE) OF THE BN-350 DO NOT CORRESPOND TO THOSE OF THE CLINCH RIVER FACILITY, SO THAT THE BN-350 WILL HAVE TO HAVE SOME PARAMETERS CHANGED TO MAKE THE EXPERIMENT APPLICABLE TO CRFBRF CONDITIONS. THE ATTENDANT SPACE AND EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS MAY BE DETERMINANT, SINCE THE TALL U.S. "HOCKEY-STICK" STEAM GENERATOR IS TOO LARGE FOR THE SPACE NOW AVAILABLE, AND THE NECESSARY MOVING OF REACTOR-ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT MAY MEAN A LONG AND PROHIBITIVELY COSTLY SHUTDOWN OF THE BN-350. THE U.S.-SOVIET SPECIAL WORKING GROUP IS ASSIGNED ITS TASK OF ASSESSING THESE PROBLEMS AND WITH COMING UP WITH

A SCOPE-OF-WORK PROPOSAL WHICH IS DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE THE COSTS TO THE TWO SIDES. THE SOVIETS WILL COMPLETE THEIR TECHNICAL STUDY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1977, AND THE JOINT WORKING GROUP SHOULD COMPLETE ITS EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1977. THE U.S. SIDE IS RESERVING JUDGEMENT UNTIL THE WORKING GROUP DOES ITS JOB, BUT ANOTHER FACTOR BESIDES MONEY THAT WEIGHS HEAVILY IN THE CONSIDERATION IS TIMING, SINCE TOO LONG A DELAY IN INSTALLING THE STEAM GENERATOR WOULD MAKE THE RESULTS OF THE EXPERIMENTS USELESS IN THE CLINCH RIVER PROGRAM.

5. ON RETURN TO MOSCOW, DELEGATION VISITED LEBEDEV, HIGH TEMPERATURE, AND KURCHATOV INSTITUTES.

A. AT LEBEDEV, DELEGATION SAW EXTENSIVE SOVIET LASER WORK DIRECTED TOWARD CONTROLLED THERMONUCLEAR REACTIONS (CTR). ALTHOUGH SOVIETS OBSERVED THAT ANY APPLICATIONS ARE YEARS AWAY, DEL NOTED THAT QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF LASER WORK WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPRESSIVE. SOVIETS ALSO DISPLAYED THEIR STELLERATOR WORK, WHICH THEY CONSIDER AN ADJUNCT TO THEIR WORK ON TOKOMAKS IN CTR.

B. AT HIS HIGH-TEMPERATURE INSTITUTE, DIRECTOR SHEYNDLIN PROUDLY SHOWED OFF THE OPERATIONAL U-25 MAGNETO-HYDRONAMIC GENERATOR AND THE STRUCTURE BUILT FOR THE AMERICAN SUPER-CONDUCTING MAGNET, WHICH HE HOPES TO RECEIVE IN APRIL-MAY 1977. DURING THE VISIT, SHEYNDLIN INFORMALLY PROPOSED US-USSR SYMPOSIUM ON ENERGY FORECASTING AND PLANNING, AN IDEA WHICH RECEIVED GOOD INITIAL REACTION FROM THE U.S. DELEGATION. UNLESS DEPARTMENT ADVISES OTHERWISE, SCIENCE OFFICE WILL CHECK INFORMALLY INTO POSSIBLE AUSPICES, PARTICIPANTS, ETC.

C. AT THE KURCHATOV, U.S. DEL WAS SHOWN WORLD'S SOLE SUPER-CONDUCTING TOKOMAK AND THE CURRENTLY-DISSEMBLED "T-10". DURING THE LUNCH AT THE KURCHATOV, SCAE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MOROKHOV COMMENTED THAT THE RECENT U.S. INITIATIVE ON BANNING PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING IS A "STEP BACKWARD", AND MADE A STRONG PLEA FOR FULL-BRED CYCLE CONTROL. WHILE NOTING THE FORWARD MOVEMENT OF FRANCE ON THIS ISSUE, HE UNDERLINED THAT NON-PROLIFERATION HALF-WAY MEASURES CAN ACTUALLY SLOW DOWN A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE PROLIFERATION PROBLEM.

6. COMMENT: THE DELEGATION WAS IMPRESSED BY THE SCOPE AND DEPTH OF THE SOVIET NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH EFFORT, WHICH HAD MADE ENORMOUS STRIDES IN THE PAST DECADE. THE THRUST OF SOVIET PROGRAMS COMPLEMENT AND PARALLEL US EFFORTS IN THE MAJORITY OF IMPORTANT RESEARCH AREAS, AND SHOULD INSURE THE BASIS FOR A SOLID COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP IN NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. MATLOCK

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